

Ose  
Oxley  
Packard  
Pease  
Petri  
Pickering  
Pitts  
Pombo  
Porter  
Portman  
Pryce (OH)  
Quinn  
Radanovich  
Ramstad  
Regula  
Reynolds  
Riley  
Rogan  
Rogers  
Rohrabacher  
Ros-Lehtinen  
Roukema  
Royce  
Ryan (WI)  
Ryun (KS)

Salmon  
Sanford  
Saxton  
Sensenbrenner  
Sessions  
Shadegg  
Shaw  
Shays  
Sherwood  
Shimkus  
Shuster  
Simpson  
Skeen  
Smith (MI)  
Smith (TX)  
Souder  
Spence  
Stabenow  
Stearns  
Stump  
Sununu  
Sweeney  
Talent  
Tancredo  
Tauzin

Taylor (NC)  
Terry  
Thomas  
Thornberry  
Thune  
Tiahrt  
Toomey  
Upton  
Vitter  
Walden  
Walsh  
Wamp  
Watkins  
Watts (OK)  
Weldon (FL)  
Weldon (PA)  
Weller  
Whitfield  
Wicker  
Wilson  
Wolf  
Young (AK)  
Young (FL)

Watt (NC)  
Waxman  
Weiner  
  
Blumenauer  
Jefferson  
LaHood

Wexler  
Weygand  
Wise  
  
McKinney  
Meeks (NY)  
Paul

Woolsey  
Wu  
Wynn  
  
Peterson (PA)  
Pomeroy  
Scarborough

## NOT VOTING—9

□ 1900

Mr. STRICKLAND and Mr. BARCIA changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So the conference report was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 480, I was unavoidably detained and was absent during the vote. It was my intention to vote “no” on this rollcall vote.

## THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WELDON of Florida). Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, the pending business is the question of agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal of the last day's proceedings.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

## SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

## LATEX ALLERGY AWARENESS WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I use this occasion to recognize this week as Latex Allergy Awareness Week, October 4 through 10, 1999, and to talk about an important health issue, an issue which directly affects a constituent of mine, 9-year-old Jimmy Clark of River Forest, Illinois, whose parents have become leading crusaders to make the public aware of this problem.

Mr. Speaker, Jimmy Clark lives with an ailment that is virtually unrecognized by most Americans and the medical community. Jimmy is latex sensitive. Yes, Jimmy is latex sensitive. He is at risk for serious and potentially fatal allergic reactions when exposed to products made from natural latex.

It is critical that we become fully aware and acknowledge the broad and problematic scope of this issue which the American Academy of Dermatology

has called the next major health concern of the decade.

Something as simple as eating lunch in his school's cafeteria could be fatal to Jimmy, since latex gloves are commonly used in the food service industries. Jimmy and others like him are allergic to thousands of items ranging from the balloons at his best friend's birthday party to the examining gloves in an ambulance or at a doctor's office.

It is heartbreaking to know that for thousands of American citizens like Jimmy, that exposure to even these seemingly harmless items could cause him to die. He cannot even receive needed medical treatment or enjoy eating lunch at school without fear of exposure to potentially deadly latex particles.

Reactions to exposure include immediate allergic reactions from skin contact resulting in itching and hives. Reactions to the airborne latex particles include inflammation of the eyes, shortness of breath, asthma, dizziness, and rapid heart rate.

The most severe cases can result in severe blood pressure drop and loss of consciousness. Latex allergy develops most commonly in people who have frequent or intimate exposure to it. At high risk are those who have had frequent surgical procedures, particularly in infancy and workers with occupational exposure, especially to latex gloves. A history of allergies or hay fever also may be a significant risk factor.

Some studies suggest that some individuals who have had dermatitis or rash and wear latex gloves may be at greater risk. Although the American public knows little about latex allergy, the last 5 years have shown increasing evidence that latex allergy has become a major occupational health problem which has become epidemic in scope among highly exposed health care workers and among others with significant occupational exposure. This is largely because the use of latex rubber has increased, especially in medical devices, because latex is used as a disease-prevention barrier.

However, Mr. Speaker, I am not suggesting who or what is at fault. Nor am I suggesting that latex is not an effective instrument in protecting humans from life-threatening diseases. I am suggesting that we need to increase research in this area and find ways to spare the citizens of this country from unnecessarily developing latex sensitivity.

It is my belief, Mr. Speaker, that an increased awareness will go a long ways towards helping find a solution to this problem.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that our researchers work cooperatively to achieve the right solution, a solution not influenced or marred by special interests from different sides of the spectrum, but a solution developed for those most affected by the disease.

## NAYS—211

Abercrombie  
Ackerman  
Allen  
Andrews  
Baird  
Baldacci  
Baldwin  
Barcia  
Barr  
Barrett (WI)  
Becerra  
Bentsen  
Berkley  
Berman  
Berry  
Blagojevich  
Bonior  
Borski  
Boswell  
Boucher  
Boyd  
Brady (PA)  
Brown (FL)  
Brown (OH)  
Capps  
Capuano  
Cardin  
Carson  
Chenoweth-Hage  
Clay  
Clayton  
Clement  
Clyburn  
Condit  
Conyers  
Costello  
Coyne  
Cramer  
Crowley  
Cummings  
Danner  
Davis (FL)  
Davis (IL)  
DeFazio  
DeGette  
Delahunt  
DeLauro  
Deutsch  
Dicks  
Dingell  
Dixon  
Doggett  
Dooley  
Doyle  
Edwards  
Engel  
Eshoo  
Etheridge  
Evans  
Farr  
Fattah  
Filner  
Forbes  
Ford  
Frank (MA)  
Frost  
Gejdenson  
Gephardt

Gonzalez  
Goode  
Gordon  
Green (TX)  
Gutierrez  
Hall (OH)  
Hall (TX)  
Hastings (FL)  
Hill (IN)  
Hilliard  
Hinchey  
Hinojosa  
Hoeffel  
Holden  
Holt  
Hooley  
Hoyer  
Inslee  
Jackson (IL)  
Jackson-Lee  
(TX)  
John  
Johnson, E. B.  
Jones (NC)  
Jones (OH)  
Kanjorski  
Kaptur  
Kennedy  
Kildee  
Kilpatrick  
Kind (WI)  
Kleczka  
Klink  
Kucinich  
LaFalce  
Lampson  
Lantos  
Larson  
Lee  
Levin  
Lewis (GA)  
Lipinski  
Lofgren  
Lowey  
Lucas (KY)  
Luther  
Maloney (CT)  
Maloney (NY)  
Manzullo  
Markey  
Martinez  
Mascara  
Matsui  
McCarthy (MO)  
McCarthy (NY)  
McDermott  
McGovern  
McIntyre  
McNulty  
Meehan  
Meek (FL)  
Menendez  
Millender-  
McDonald  
Miller, George  
Minge  
Mink  
Moakley

Mollohan  
Moore  
Moran (VA)  
Murtha  
Nadler  
Napolitano  
Neal  
Oberstar  
Obey  
Oliver  
Ortiz  
Owens  
Pallone  
Pascrell  
Pastor  
Payne  
Pelosi  
Peterson (MN)  
Phelps  
Pickett  
Price (NC)  
Rahall  
Rangel  
Reyes  
Rivers  
Rodriguez  
Roemer  
Rothman  
Roybal-Allard  
Rush  
Sabo  
Sánchez  
Sanders  
Sandlin  
Sawyer  
Schaffer  
Schakowsky  
Scott  
Serrano  
Sherman  
Shows  
Sisisky  
Skelton  
Slaughter  
Smith (NJ)  
Smith (WA)  
Snyder  
Spratt  
Stark  
Stenholm  
Strickland  
Stupak  
Tanner  
Tauscher  
Taylor (MS)  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Thurman  
Tierney  
Towns  
Traficant  
Turner  
Udall (CO)  
Udall (NM)  
Velázquez  
Vento  
Visclosky  
Waters

Latex allergy organizations and support groups across this Nation have successfully established a State Latex Allergy Awareness Week in several States. I believe once this awareness of this disease increases, our Nation will see with sincere satisfaction the positive results from research and care for those who suffer from its effects. Hopefully, next year as this same time approaches, both Houses will see fit to declare this week National Latex Allergy Awareness Week.

Mr. Speaker, I close by thanking Mr. and Mrs. Clark and Jimmy for stepping up to the plate to help make Americans more aware of a health problem and a societal need. They embody the real spirit of democracy: if not I, then who? If not then, when? I thank both Jimmy and his parents and say to them that River Forest as well as all of America are proud of them.

#### ISSUES OF CONCERN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to speak on several unrelated but very important topics. First I want to quote from an Associated Press story of a few days ago: "A billion-dollar-a-year air war forgotten by the outside world but droning on over dusty Iraqi towns does not appear to be getting Washington any closer to its ultimate goal of ousting President Saddam Hussein."

The Associated Press story said that we have dropped 1,400 bombs and missiles on Iraq since mid-December in this forgotten war. A forgotten war that is doing no good, wasting more than \$2.6 million each day, bombing people who could be our friends, but instead making new enemies for the United States each and every day. A billion-dollar-a-year air war that is wasteful, useless, inhumane, and according to the Associated Press, not accomplishing its goal.

Second, I want to mention another ridiculously wasteful project. A few days ago NASA lost a \$125 million Mars orbiter because one engineering team used metric units while another used English units for a key spacecraft operation. If this had happened in the private sector, heads would have rolled. However, when it happens with taxpayer money done by totally protected civil servants and big government contractors, no one is really held accountable.

We see over and over and over again that the Federal Government is unable to do anything in an economical, efficient, low-cost manner. Because it is other people's money, they really just do not care. If we want our money to be wasted, just turn it over to Federal bureaucrats. They will be paid regardless

of how bad a job they do and at a rate that is about 50 percent higher than the average citizen for whom they are supposed to be working.

Today we just cavalierly lose a \$125 million machine because we have a government that is of, by, and for the bureaucrats instead of one that is of, by, and for the people.

Third, Mr. Speaker, let me mention the scandalous grant of clemency to the 16 Puerto Rican terrorists responsible for 130 bombings. These bombings killed six people. They left six people dead, and maimed and injured 84 others. One New York City policeman lost his leg and one lost his sight and has 20 pins holding his head together, and the President and the Department of Justice are refusing to give congressional committees the information and papers leading to these grants of clemency. What are they trying to hide?

Senator ORRIN HATCH, a Member of the other body and chairman of its Committee on the Judiciary said, "The Justice Department today is run by people who do not care about the law." The grants of clemency were given against the advice of every law enforcement agency asked about them.

#### □ 1915

Three examples, Mr. Speaker, of a Federal Government that is simply too big and out of control and wasting billions of hard-earned tax dollars each and every day.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, one other concern I have does not deal with Federal Government wasteful spending, but is it possible that many people are spending money in a harmful way on Ritalin.

I mentioned once before on this floor that a retired high-level Drug Enforcement Agency official wrote in the Knoxville News-Sentinel last year that Ritalin is prescribed six times as much in the United States as in any other industrialized nation. He said that Ritalin has the same properties, basically, as some of the most addictive drugs there are.

Now I read in Time Magazine that production of Ritalin has increased sevenfold in the past 8 years and that 90 percent of it is consumed in the United States. Time Magazine said, "the growing availability of the drug raises the fear of the abuse: more teenagers try Ritalin by grinding it up and snorting it for \$5 a pill than get it by prescription."

Also, I read in Insight magazine that almost all these teenage school shooters in recent years have been boys who were on at the time or had recently been on Ritalin or some similar mind-altering drug.

Now, I believe there are some people for whom Ritalin has been good. But I also read that it is almost always given to boys who have both parents working full time.

I am simply asking if it is a good thing to give such a strong drug to so

many, or is it simply a way for a big drug company to make huge profits. Why 90 percent in the United States? Why do we have at least six times as much of this prescribed in the U.S. as any other industrialized nation?

I hope, Mr. Speaker, that parents, teachers, doctors and everyone else will not be so eager to turn to Ritalin, which is really a potentially dangerous addictive drug and will use it only as an absolute last resort.

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE IS IN BAD SHAPE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, today, the President signed the defense bill and he gave, in signing the defense bill, a speech in which I think he gave a dangerously false message to the American people. That message was that defense is in good shape.

Defense is not in good shape. We are \$3.5 billion short on ammunition for the Army. We are \$193 million short on ammunition for the Marine Corps. We have 10,000 uniformed families on food stamps because they are about 13 percent under the wages of their counterparts in the civilian sector.

Our aircraft are in such bad shape that only about 65 percent of them can get off the ground and go do their mission. Our Navy now is lacking 18,000 sailors because we cannot get sailors to join Mr. Clinton's Navy. We are about 800 pilots short in the Air Force, and it costs millions of dollars to train a pilot, and it takes a long time. If the balloon goes up and we have a war, we are not going to be ready.

So the President has cut defense disastrously. His own Joint Chiefs, some of whom stood behind him in that press conference said that his budget was underfunded by about \$20 billion. The Air Force said they need an extra \$5 billion. The Navy said they need an extra \$6 billion a year, the Army an extra \$5 billion, and the Marine Corps an extra \$1.75 billion. On top of that, they need an extra \$2.5 billion a year to pay for the retirement and the wages that are necessary to keep good people in the service.

So the Clinton administration has dragged down national defense.

Now, Congress has added some money to the defense bill. We have added about \$50 billion over the last 6 years, but that is not enough. We have added as much as we thought we could add without getting the bill vetoed by President Clinton. Even then, he has threatened vetoes on a number of occasions.

But defense is in difficult condition. It is in bad shape. If we had to fight the two-war scenario, that is, if we had to fight on the Korean Peninsula and we